

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1987

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**INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

Sixteen years ago, as a freshman legislator, I participated in the inauguration of another governor, John Carl West. I remember being honored by the privilege of participating in a small way in the continuation of history.

Today, I am honored and humbled to be the 112th person to place his hand on a Bible and swear to uphold the laws of the state of South Carolina as Governor.

As I have taken this oath of office today, I have done so fully aware of our "goodly heritage."

From the beginning, over three hundred years ago, South Carolina has represented unlimited opportunity.

That is why we became home to courageous men and women who cultivated the wilderness.

That is why we became home to caring men and women who established churches and schools and health facilities.

That is why we became home to creative men and women who built our industries, grew our crops and introduced arts to the new world.

No guarantees of success were given to our forefathers, only opportunities. But, seizing the opportunities presented to them and working together, these visionaries helped South Carolina lead our fledgling nation in the introduction of new business and places of learning. South Carolinians were among the first to build a cotton mill and the first to plant rice for sale. We opened the first public library and the first college supported entirely by state funds.

Each governor before me has faced problems and challenges. History has swept the succession of governors through mega-changes: From the struggling Colonial Period...through a series of wars in which our young were giving their lives for their country...through depressions and recessions...good times and bad. These governors saw us go from flintlock weapons to nuclear warheads. Horse-drawn carriages to men on the moon. Pony Express to instant communications.

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They also saw South Carolinians lead the way from the invention of the laser to the exploration of space.

Throughout the years, one thing is apparent: progress has been made and success achieved because people saw obstacles as opportunities and took advantage of those opportunities. Those who sought guarantees of success over the opportunity to dare to try never contributed to the true success of our state or nation.

Yes, we have a goodly heritage. Our values are strong. We believe in family and church and community. Through the years the basic goals and ideals of the people of South Carolina have remained intact. Parents want more opportunities for their children than they've had. We want the freedom to pursue our own version of the American dream. We seek the chance to serve others in our own way. And, our collective wisdom tells us there is a Higher Power who must be served as well.

These are the ideals that connect generations past and future. They are the constants in a sea of change.

Just over a year ago, I shared with you my vision for South Carolina -- a place where people have the opportunity to live and work, and raise their families in an environment that is clean and safe; where every child can grow up with the opportunity to receive a good education and a reasonable expectation of getting a decent job. A South Carolina where citizens have access to good health care; where our elderly have an opportunity to retire in dignity and walk the streets unafraid.

I want every child today to have the opportunity to rise to the height of his or her own potential.

As I take office today, the time for governing has begun. And with this time come obligations on my part and on the part of others who serve in positions of leadership.

It is a time to start building bridges that transcend political differences and personal preferences. It is time for all of us to throw away political banners and unite under the banner

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that reads -- "South Carolina: A State of Opportunity."

I will give every ounce of energy I possess toward this purpose!

But, I am sure there will be differences -- strong differences which will receive full, open and fair debate. However, I am equally sure that beneath the debate over programs and ideas there will be a wellspring of goodwill flowing toward the common goal of providing unparalleled opportunity for all South Carolinians.

This is my goal. It is my purpose.

Toward this end, let me state that I believe in fiscally sound policies that are conducive to job creation through private sector investment and growth. I believe we must build on and meet the needs of the employers we have - manufacturing, farming, tourism and transportation.

We need more people working and paying taxes, not the same people paying more taxes.

Our role in government is to maintain the climate in which our citizens and businesses have the opportunity to prosper. To this end, we must recognize that the role of government is not to perpetuate programs or build networks of preferential treatment for a few. Government's role should not be one of finding new ways to spend tax dollars or solve problems that people can and should solve for themselves. And, government's function is not to ensure that everyone receives an equal share of the pie.

The overriding purpose of government is to do for our citizens that which they individually can't do for themselves and to ensure the climate exists for every citizen to have the opportunity to improve his or her own status in life by his or her own effort.

But, while we can't guarantee that every child will achieve success, we can have an educational system that creates the climate for each child to have the opportunity to succeed.

We can't mandate that every able-bodied adult obtain an honest job and be a positive force for

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society, but, we can seek to make sure that jobs are there for every person willing to give a good day's work for a good day's pay. And we can make sure that government is a positive force in encouraging work rather than a negative force whose programs may do the opposite.

And we can't guarantee every South Carolinian good health. But we can seek to provide the opportunity to have reasonable access to quality health care.

Nor can we assure every small businessman and major corporate executive success if they choose South Carolina as a place to start or locate a business. We can, however, provide them with fair tax and insurance laws, reasonable regulations evenly enforced and a vibrant economic development policy that will assure that South Carolina is at the top of the list in providing them the opportunity to succeed.

And, while we can't guarantee every institution of technical and higher education provides every course for every student, we can provide a system of higher education that gives opportunities to all. From those who need remedial help to those who work and study in the public-private partnerships between our universities and businesses as they undertake research and development of new ideas and products.

To be honest, it would be easy to set our sights low this year -- and perhaps in future years. Our state is facing bleak fiscal prospects. We have locked ourselves into a pattern of spending that exceeds our income. Very little discretion is left with our lawmakers due to court orders and funding formulas. Government is going through another round of mid-year budget cuts. Five of the last seven years across-the-board cuts have been mandated.

Ladies and gentlemen, we're going to have to make some tough and yes critical decisions over the next four years. Many of these decisions will evoke a firestorm of protest from groups and individuals who'll be affected by them.

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But, it's time we realized that all programs are not created equally and that yesterday's good ideas may not be so good today. We must have the wisdom to discern and the courage to change. We must differentiate between our wants and our needs and fund our needs first! We must stop constantly changing estimates of state revenue just to spend more money.

Contracts must be scrutinized closely and programs must be reviewed and changed or abolished if necessary.

Yes, it is tempting to lower our sights because of our problems. But, we dare not take the easy road into tomorrow. We must turn our problems into opportunities. Tomorrow will not fail us unless we choose to throw it away!

We have a mandate to tackle the tough problems because the future of generations yet to come rests on decisions we are about to make.

The children are our future. Regardless of status, race or any other false wall that society builds up -- I tell you that the well being of all of our children will have a top priority in this administration.

That means that parents will be expected to support the children they bring into this world to the best of their ability regardless of the circumstances that exist between the parents.

That means children must start out with a positive educational experience in the early years. That also means personal attention, which means lowering pupil-teacher ratios in kindergarten and the early grades.

It also means a system of learning that puts children first. Children spend the first five years in school learning to read. From then on, if they have learned to read, they read to learn. If not, they get lost. No matter the problems in public education, we can never lose sight of the fact that schools exist for the children and the children deserve the best in teachers. The school

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system must be able to pay these good teachers so we can attract and keep them. And, the school system and the teachers must be held accountable.

And speaking of children and schools, let me tell you that drug abuse among young people is real. It threatens to undermine everything we're trying to do.

We must do more in educating children about drugs and prosecuting those who sell drugs. And, we will find the means to do it. Under my administration, the fight against crime will be waged with vigor.

But, education can't be viewed in isolation as an end to itself. It is a means to the goal of attaining a quality of life which is defined by each individual. The second part of the equation is jobs -- economic development.

We must have a diversified economy -- one in which a small or minority business person can grasp an idea and have an opportunity to test it in the marketplace. One in which indigenous businesses can expand. An economy which attracts corporations from all over the world because of our skilled workforce, natural resources and stable economic climate.

An economy that recognizes that the heritage of the family farm is precious and important to the future.

And we must recognize that no area of the state truly prospers unless all prosper; rural areas and major cities; lowcountry and midlands; Piedmont and Pee Dee. They all must be included.

South Carolina must be positioned for the next century. We must be able to compete with any state anytime for jobs.

Economic development must be the cornerstone of state government for the future. Without economic development we not only will be unable to provide jobs, we will be unable to pay for educational quality.

We already know there's not enough money to fund the Education Improvement Act from the additional one penny sales tax. With programs being cut tough short-term decisions are looming.

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The only acceptable long term solution is economic development to pay the taxes to fund the programs.

The only alternatives to an aggressive economic development policy are general tax increases for the same people or lower horizons. Neither is acceptable.

For these reasons, I will spend more time and exert more effort on economic development and job creation than any other endeavor.

As education is the heart of South Carolina's future, jobs are our lifeblood.

However, all of our efforts to improve the lot of our people will be diminished if decisions we make in other areas continue to deplete their resources.

An example is in the field of insurance. Families and businesses alike are suffering under the high costs of insurance for their cars and their products and their businesses. These costs are affecting the quality of life of individuals and the competitiveness of our businesses and they must be addressed.

Yes, we have some serious business ahead. But, as we undertake our task, let us always remember that we must be sensitive to the needs of those who are less fortunate.

In just 13 years, our planet will celebrate a day that occurs only once every thousand years; the beginning of a new millenium. We are moving toward a new era which provides unspeakable challenges and unlimited opportunities. The steps we take will determine whether we enter the year two thousand boldly or timidly. As optimists who see opportunity, or as pessimists who see obstacles. With foresight of options or hindsight of doubt.

I believe today's vision can be tomorrow's reality. We can have a superior public education system!

We can create the jobs for our people!

We will create a society in which our senior citizens can retire in dignity and walk the streets in safety!

We will have a compassionate government!

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We shall create a more efficient government which, by words and deeds proves itself to be open and above reproach!

And as we do these things, we may uncover the solutions to the social problems manifest in high infant mortality rates and teeming prisons and teen-age parents unprepared for adult responsibilities and the medically needy and the illiterate.

You may wonder why I am so optimistic.

I am optimistic and confident that we can meet any challenge because you the people of South Carolina are our greatest resource. Our goodly heritage is neighbors willing to serve and share as their talents allow. Citizens who fit the definition of hero.

Past heroes such as Francis Marion who battled the British and Andrew Jackson's mother who became fatally ill while caring for wounded and sick prisoners in Charleston. My grandfather, Dr. S.D. Campbell, who practiced medicine until he was 91, delivered over 6,000 babies and never sent a bill, taking only what people would pay. Burning his books late in life so no one he cared for would every feel the pressure of a debt to him.

Lost heroes such as Ron McNair who challenged the heavens and died in our quest for progress. And my brother Michael, who fought for freedom and died in our quest for peace.

Unsung heroes such as Lila Mae Brock in Greenville who cares for the needy and Johnny Zenoni in Columbia who feeds the hungry.

Everyday heroes -- mill workers, farmers, doctors, teachers, homemakers. All the men and women whose attention to their responsibilities -- whether they be in the home or office, factory or field -- will help make this vision I share with you a reality.

We have the will, the determination and the faith.

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, wrote these words in the Book of Ecclesiastes. He said:

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"There is nothing better for man than to rejoice and do good in one's lifetime; moreover, that every man sees good in all his labors -- it is the gift of God."

Our challenge, therefore, is to do good...to provide opportunities for our people. That is the challenge.

Etched on our sword of state is the South Carolina state seal showing the Palmetto tree, a symbol of our strength in adversity, and the state slogan, "Prepared in mind and resources." With God's help we shall remain prepared and we will create opportunity!

#### ADJOURNMENT

At 1:45 P.M. the House in accordance with the motion of Rep. O. PHILLIPS adjourned to meet at 10:00 A.M. tomorrow.

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